

Pep Boys Ready Essay Contest

Pep Boys Auto Supply Stores today announced the availability of their 11th Annual Four-Year Engineering Scholarship to a state college or university. The scholarship provides tuition, books and supplies for a four-year term, and is open to all high school seniors graduating in June 1963.

A traffic safety essay contest and other qualifications will help determine the winner, according to Murray Rosenfeld, Pep Boys executive vice president and general manager. Scholarship entry blanks are obtainable now from senior high school class counselors. The essay deadline is March 3.

IN ADDITION to the scholarship, special trophies and \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds will be awarded the three students writing the best essays on "What I would do to prevent traffic accidents and save lives."

The final winner is determined by the excellence of his (or her) essay, scholastic standing, good citizenship and a college entrance examination. Judging of the essays will be done by Joseph Kaplan, general manager of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council; Inspector R. A. Kridler of the California Highway Patrol; Cecil Zaun, supervisor of the Safety and Driver Instruction Section of the Los Angeles City Schools; and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, Evelle J. Younger.

"The essay competition is

Law In Action

Married men and women often want the survivor to enjoy their property during life, eventually to leave the remainder to their children or other heirs.

In California each man's wife can dispose of one-half of the community property in any way she likes.

TO MAKE sure that the property eventually goes to the children of heirs, married couples often make joint or mutual wills. (Or there are other ways depending on the circumstances.)

In a recent case John and Mary made wills saying that the survivor would get all the community property to use until he or she died. Afterwards, one-half of what was left would go respectively to Mary and John's relatives.

John died. Mary got all their community property. She remarried and transferred all of it jointly to herself and her new husband.

JOHN'S relatives sued, saying that such a transfer broke John and Mary's mutual wills. The court agreed. It ordered Mary to hold one-half of the property in trust after her use for John's relatives.

Such a survivor may use the property entirely if the use is reasonable. The heirs have a right only to what is left.

As a rule, husband and wife have agreed how to distribute their property before they make mutual wills. Their relationship is confidential and one of trust. The husband cannot take advantage of the wife in making such contracts between themselves. If he does, the courts may not enforce the will.

ONE WIFE accepted the benefits of her husband's mutual will when he died. She then said that her agreement to divide the property with the husband's heirs was not binding. "They were not deserving."

But the court held that she could not repudiate her contract, after benefiting from it. Mutual wills are like other wills. The will maker can change it until his death. But if it violates the mutual agreement, the other spouse can sue for breach of contract.

One caution: Be sure to get expert advice on mutual wills. They can be complicated as you can see.

Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know our laws.

WRITERS

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County Will Oppose Additional Judges

County supervisors have voted to declare a moratorium on the authorization of additional Municipal and Superior court judges for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The county has been asked to officially oppose in Sacramento legislation introduced to authorize additional judges during the current session. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn made the request.

"IT COSTS the taxpayers \$100,000 a year to operate each court in Los Angeles County. There are currently 120 judges in the Superior Court and 23 Municipal Court Districts, and taxes have skyrocketed to such a rate that the people can no longer bear them," Hahn said.

Hahn pointed out that both Judge McIntyre Faries, presiding judge of the Superior Court, and Judge Earl Lippold, presiding judge of the Los An-

geles Municipal Court, concurred in his action.

HE ACTED after learning that the County has received requests for four additional judges in the Beverly Hills, Citrus and Pasadena Municipal Court Districts, and the requested substitution of a judge for a commissioner in the El Monte Municipal Court.

"In addition, legislation has been introduced in Sacramento

for an additional judge in Compton," Hahn pointed out. He cited the fact that in the 1961 Legislature, 10 additional Municipal Court judges were authorized; seven in Los Angeles and one each in Pomona, Long Beach and Downey.

"WE HAVE 100 Municipal Court judges now—some busy and some not so busy. It would seem to me that the total number could accomplish the total

work load if some effort or means were devised to effect the maximum utilization of all judicial manpower available," Hahn said.

"In the absence of effecting such utilization, we will continue to receive requests for additional judges in first this district and second in some other district. This will obviously add to the cost of Municipal Court operations," he added.

Miss Torrance Chairman Named

Flavio Bisignano, a local businessman, has been named chairman of the Miss Torrance contest.

The girl selected will receive a trophy and other prizes. She will also represent the city in various civic activities including the Armed Forces Day Parade.

Details of the contest have not been worked out, Bisignano said.

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